(b) The proposed safeguard duty, when levied, will be in addition to any other duty imposed for similar imports from other countries.

(c) to (e) The Finance Bill, 2002, which is under consideration of the Parliament, proposes to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as mentioned in reply to part (a) above. The proposed amendment is to safeguard the domestic industry from imports from China.

Assistance against godown and warehouse receipt by NABARD

4288. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider NABARD's proposal for funding by commercial banks to farmers against godown or warehouse receipts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NABARD has formulated guidelines for banks to finance rural godowns;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction to its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/renovation/expansion of rural godowns is under implementation through NABARD/National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under the scheme, there is a provision for providing loans to farmers by banks against the pledge of godown receipts. Under this scheme, 25 percent of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 37.50 lakhs will be provided as credit-linked, back-ended subsidy to the godown constructed in the areas outside the municipal limits in the States. The capacity of such godown should not be less than 100 MT. The owner's contribution will be 25 percent.

NABARD has circulated a copy of the model scheme to participating banks containing the techno-economic parameters as also the checklist for construction of godown to facilitate formulation/scrutiny/appraisal of the projects. Government has also finalised the operational guidelines and accorded necessary approval for its implementation.